

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Panama, 9 February 2026.  
**AG-0154-2026**

Dear Dr. de Bruyn

I have the honor to address you, on behalf of the Panama Aquatic Resources Authority (ARAP), to express the interest of the Republic of Panama in formally applying for participation as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (CNCP) to the Commission.

Through this application, the Republic of Panama confirms its commitment to cooperate in the implementation of conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission, in accordance with Rule IX, Annex III concerning the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties. Likewise, Panama reaffirms its commitment to comply with the conditions established by the Commission and to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

In this regard, we submit the following information for the Commission's consideration:

### 1. Information Required, according to numeral 2 of Annex II:

- a) **Where available, data on its historical fisheries in the IOTC area, including nominal catches, number/type of vessels, name of fishing vessels, fishing effort and fishing areas:**

*Panama does not have historical data on nominal catches or fishing effort in the IOTC Convention Area. However, Panama participates through refrigerated cargo vessels registered in the Commission's Record of Authorized Vessels.*

*Since April 2025, when Panama was granted Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status, the country registered thirty-four (34) Panama-flagged vessels authorized in the Commission's record. As of 31 December 2025, Panama maintained fifteen (15) refrigerated cargo vessels registered and active in the Commission's record, in accordance with IOTC Resolution 19/04.*

**b) All the data that Contracting Parties have to submit to IOTC based on the Resolutions adopted by IOTC:**

*Panama has informed its refrigerated cargo fleet of the obligation to comply with the Commission's applicable guidelines, resolutions and conservation measures when operating in the Convention Area, including the timely submission of required activity reports.*

**c) Details on current fishing presence in the IOTC area, number of vessels and vessel characteristics and:**

*According to the Commission's Record of Authorized Vessels, Panama maintains a presence through refrigerated cargo vessels. For the period 2026, nineteen (19) vessels of this type operated in the Commission's regulated area, reporting their previously authorized activities to both the Commission and the Authority.*

**d) Information on any research programmes it may have conducted in the IOTC Area and the information and the results of this research.**

*No aplica. Panama does not currently conduct research programmes in the Commission's Convention Area.*

**2. Panama must also comply with the following information:**

**a) Confirm its commitment to respect the Commission's Conservation and Management Measures and:**

*Panama commits to comply with the Commission's conservation and management measures applicable to the requested status, as well as those adopted in the future for the sustainable use of marine resources within the Commission's area of competence, including, inter alia:*

- 1. Resolution 19/04 — Record of Authorized Vessels.*
- 2. Resolution 25/02 — Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Programme.*
- 3. Resolution 25/05 — Transshipment Programme.*
- 4. Resolution 25/11 — Port State Measures.*
- 5. Resolution 25/06 — Regional Observer Scheme.*
- 6. Resolution 24/09 — Compliance with Conservation and Management Measures.*
- 7. Resolution 24/03 — List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out IUU Fishing Activities.*

8. *Resolution 25/12 - Promotion of the implementation of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures.*
9. *Resolution 24/11 - Marine pollution.*
10. *Resolution 23/08 - Electronic Monitoring Standards for IOTC Fisheries.*
11. *Resolution 19/07 - Vessel Chartering in the IOTC Area of Competence.*
12. *Resolution 14/05 - Record of licensed foreign vessels fishing for IOTC species in the IOTC area of competence.*
13. *Resolution 12/02 - Data confidentiality policy and procedures.*
14. *Resolution 10/10 - Concerning market related measures.*

**b) Inform IOTC of the measures it takes to ensure compliance by its vessels of IOTC Conservation and Management Measures:**

*Panama will adopt the necessary measures to ensure effective compliance with the Commission's conservation and management measures by vessels flying its flag. These obligations have been communicated to vessel owners, masters, resident agents and other persons directly associated with vessels registered or intending to operate in the area regulated by the Commission.*

The Republic of Panama reaffirms its commitment to fully cooperate in the implementation of the conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission, to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Convention by its vessels, and to actively participate in the Commission's annual plenary and compliance meetings.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Sincerely,

**EDUARDO CARRASQUILLA D.**  
Administrator General



Doctor  
**Paul de Bruyn**  
Executive Secretary  
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)  
Seychelles

EC/YV/mea